# MISILC

202400308-1200 Council Meeting

Captioned by Q&A Reporting, Inc., [www.qacaptions.com](http://www.qacaptions.com)

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Okay, well it is 12:01 and we are going to go ahead and get started as people come in today. Welcome everyone to our SILC quarterly business meeting for march. And also welcome to all of our people, all of the people on the Zoom from the public as well, thank you for joining us today.

And also, a special thank you to Disability Network southwest, for hosting us today in person.

Okay, with that being said, is there any accommodation or any accommodation requests that need to be made at this time?

Okay, hearing none, Tracy, may we have a roll call, please?

>> TRACY BROWN: Sure.

>> AARON ANDRES: Present.

>> FRANK ANIMIKWAM:

>> TRACY BROWN: I don't believe he has joined us yet.

>> GLEN ASHLOCK: Here.

>> ALLEN BEAUCHAMP: Here.

>> ERICA COULSTON: Here.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Here.

>> STEPHANIE DEIBLE: Here.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: Here.

>> MINDY KULASA: Here.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Here.

>> THERESA METZMAKER: Here.

>> TRACY BROWN: You have a quorum.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Tracy. Okay, so following our agenda today we are going to start with the consent agenda. And within the consent agenda you have the approval of the March 8, 2024, business meeting as proposed which is what you're looking at. We also have the approval of the January 12th, 2024, draft business meeting. We also have the executive committee meeting minutes. The financial reports. As well as the Executive Director report. May I have a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented?

>> AARON ANDRES: Motion to accept as presented, Andres.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you Aaron may I also have a second, please?

>> Support.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you. And Tracy, may we have a roll call vote for the consent agenda?

>> TRACY BROWN:

>> AARON ANDRES: Yes.

>> GLEN ASHLOCK: Yes.

>> ALLEN BEAUCHAMP: Yes.

>> ERICA COULSTON: Yes.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Yes.

>> STEPHANIE DEIBLE: Yes.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: Yes.

>> MINDY KULASA: Yes.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Yes.

>> THERESA METZMAKER: Yes.

>> TRACY BROWN: Motion carried.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you all and thank you, Tracy.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Jamia, this is Steve. Could we back up just a little bit and do introductions for who is in the room and introductions for who is on Zoom?

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Yes, I'm sorry.

>> STEVE LOCKE: That is okay.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Okay, so I'm Jamia Davis and I serve as the Council chair of the SILC. And we will just go around on Zoom and then we can go around in the room and then we will do Zoom.

>> AARON ANDRES: Vice president of the Council.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Executive Director and staff to the Council.

>> Max Hornick from Southwest Michigan checking out the meeting.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: Disability Network West Michigan.

>> Disability Network.

>> TRACY BROWN: Staff for the SILC.

>> MINDY KULASA: Treasurer of the SILC.

>> STEVE LOCKE: That is everyone in the room.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Steve. And then we will start with Glen for our Zoom introductions.

>> GLEN ASHLOCK: Hi, Glen on the Council.

>> STEPHANIE DEIBLE: Hi everyone this is Steve ‑‑ Stephanie and I'm the SILC secretary.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Good afternoon. I'm Jan Lampman, the past chair of the Council.

>> THERESA METZMAKER: This is Theresa Metzmaker, Council member.

>> ERICA COULSTON: Council member.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: I will go with you next.

>> ALLEN BEAUCHAMP: Council member.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Teri, would you like to go next?

>> Executive Director of Disability Network Michigan.

>> This is Annie signing my name is A on the chin, director on the division of deaf, deaf blind and hard of hearing with the Michigan department of civil rights is where we are housed. Thank you.

>> SHAWAN DORTCH: Good afternoon from the office of special education Michigan Department of Education. I am the monitoring and technical assistance coordinator for the state.

>> Roger Jones of Disability Network Southwest Michigan and do IT work and my intention here is to be the tech support for any needs for the meeting.

>> JAMIA DAVIS:

>> BILL ADDISON: I'm ‑‑ I represent MRS as a nonvoting member.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Is that everyone in the Zoom room? Has everyone spoken? I think so. We have one or two more people. Annette is providing CART and Julie and Bethany are the ASL interpreters. Thank you everyone for your introductions. I believe there were two more people in the Zoom room. Oh, I see a question in the chat, Roger Jones, he is the IT for Disability Network southwest.

Okay, all right, thank you everyone for your introductions today. It's a pleasure to have everyone here. We are going to next go into our Council education which will be a presentation by Disability Network Southwest Michigan, and they are going to be presenting today on their programs and their services.

>> We just did this, so I wasn't prepared to do that. But that's all right. I can do it. Hello. Thanks for letting us do this. A couple things I will just talk about because I know you were here recently and had some people share stories about our services so I'm just going to hit some highlights of some exciting things that are going on. One of them is around accessibility. We got a grant with discover Kalamazoo and discover Kalamazoo is our local travel Bureau agency, state, I don't know if it's state agencies but whatever those people are called. And we got a grant with them. And a place called we are the world. We are the world is a like a price line or booking.com but they focus on accessibility. One of their founders uses a wheelchair and when traveling he had a really hard time. No surprise. So, he founded the company where you go in, and you create a profile for free. And you talk about your accessibility needs and then when you are going to visit a place, it's an international service, it will pick for you these are the hotels and restaurants that meet your accessibility needs.

So, Kalamazoo is going to do this, and Disability Network will be doing the ADA surveys for up to 130 local businesses.

So that is super exciting. And, you know, Kalamazoo I think works pretty hard to be inclusive and this is certainly a giant step to help us get there.

So that's going on.

And then related to that we are through another grant through the Michigan health endowment are doing a -- we don't officially have the grant yet but believe we will get the grant but is working with our United Way and doing accessibility to get website and materials and such up to par with digital accessibility needs. So that's really exciting. So, lots of work around accessibility. I may have mentioned this before, but Kalamazoo had created the first curb cut in the nation. I don't remember what year it was. Dorm? I know you and I both researched it. It is when vets were coming back from the war, probably Vietnam.

>> This is Max, no it was World War II. So, it was 1946 and the reason I remember it is virtually they didn't get theirs until 30 years later.

>> That is right we beat Berkeley and are proud of that and working on cool stuff in July which is disability pride month and the ADA anniversary, getting ‑‑ it's making sure that there is like a commemorative plaque talking about the first curb cut in the nation and trying to leverage that with our community that hey this was so cool we were the first and let's keep going and be more and more accessible. So that is a big thing going on. And then I brought with me, and I will share it our community education flier to update you on what's happening in community Ed. In addition, we are about to have in partnership with Ann Arbor, I will ask you to say something, we are doing a ‑‑ you take over max.

>> In partnership with Disability Network Washtenaw, Monroe, Michigan, I memorized the name finally and we are going to be doing our fourth nothing about us without us film festival in April. The dates I believe are April 16, '17 and 18. For this year. So that will be online. So, anyone can sign up and come and we would love to see strong showing from all over the state for that virtual film festival. We've had we will be showing you know all films with the disability theme, and we also had three short film submissions from Michigan film makers that will be included in that festival. So, we are very excited about that.

>> Tim anything you want to add of what is going on here or want to talk about? You think it's covered, okay.

I think those are the brief highlights. I will make sure the flier that is here, that we get that to Steve so he can share that too. Most of the trainings on there are free and virtual and can join in any time. I think that is it for now.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Great.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, thank you everyone. So many exciting things happening there, and we appreciate you all.

Okay, so we are going to move forward with our agenda. And now we are going to move to the staff and committee reports and we are going to have our first report by Steve Locke who will give the Executive Director report.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Thank you, Jamia. You have my report that was submitted earlier this week. So, I won't read it verbatim. There are a few things that I would like to highlight. Last year in our outreach effort we did our first mini campaign, and it was actually with Disability Network Southwest Michigan here in Kalamazoo. Where we did a billboard campaign. A texting and e‑mail campaign that we felt was very successful.

This year our first mini campaign is going to be with Disability Network of Mid‑Michigan. This is going to be rolled out in May. And it is centered around the Canadian hockey league's Memorial cup tournament that is coming to Saginaw to the Dow event center. We will be promoting Independent Living and the CILs through billboard campaign with Kelly Plum's CIL in Midland Disability Network Mid‑Michigan and real excited about this. We have two billboards that are one is on the I 75 corridor going north to Saginaw. And another one is on the I675 corridor where you get off to the Dow event center, so we are excited about the first mini campaign of the year.

The other item I want to highlight is an opportunity that I facilitated with Teri‑Langley for centers for Independent Living with emergency preparedness objective. Michigan public health institute had emergency preparedness grant and SILC was written into that grant for 20,000. We were able to get some memorandums of understanding together with 7 of the centers for Independent Living to help provide emergency preparedness resources for an emergency preparedness guide that is going to be one of the outputs of MPHI grant. All of that work was finished yesterday actually. And we have got the invoice sent off to MPHI, so we hope to have the CILs paid for their portion of the work on that grant towards the end of this month.

So, another great collaborative opportunity between SILC and the CILs.

Moving on to SPIL writing. We are making great progress with the SPIL writing team. We are meeting on a monthly basis. The CILs have done a lot of great work getting goals and objectives together. Last week we reviewed some measurable indicators that they put together. Looking at SILC advocacy we were able to dovetail the life areas we will work on around the goals and objectives that the CILs have selected to work on for the three years of the state plan. Of course, those life areas have come out of the public input that we've received through our community needs assessment survey. And also, the public hearing sessions that we are holding by Zoom. Those areas look to be housing, transportation, and mental health advocacy.

We do have ‑‑ we are holding three public hearings via Zoom every month up until April. The next meetings are scheduled for Sunday, March 24th. Wednesday March 27th. And Thursday, March 28th. We really appreciate the CILs helping us out, getting that information out across their social media platforms. And in their newsletters so we can have greater participation in those public input sessions. The next area I'd like to highlight is appointments. I'm pleased to say Yasmina, the Executive Director of the DD Council was appointed to the ex officio for the disability Council and SILC order. We are really excited to welcome Yasmina, and she was not able to make it due to a prior commitment. We now have a fully seated Council. So that is the great news there.

The next item is SILC put out a request for proposals for accounting services at the end of January. We received two proposals. Three members of the executive committee reviewed those proposals, and a firm has been selected based on those Rankings for award of contract. Later in today's meeting you will be asked to vote on a contract with Juniper accounting services, which is the new name of SILC's current accounting firm. That contract would be for five years with an optional five‑year extension at the Council's pleasure.

The last item I'd like to highlight is the upcoming SILC Congress that is happening next week. March 11 through March 13. In Little Rock, Arkansas, I'm excited to say that Mindy Kulasa and Council members and Jamia our Council chair will be attending on behalf of Michigan. I'm not aware of anyone else from Michigan that is going this year. But as our delegates we wish them safe travels and we are excited to hear about what they learn when they come back.

So, with that, that's the highlights that I have for my report. I would be happy to answer any questions.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Hearing no questions for ‑‑ thank you, Steve. Hearing no questions for Steve, we will now go to our next agenda item, which is the strategic planning committee. Also presented by Steve if you have anything.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Yeah, thanks Jamia. The strategic planning committee is a standing item on our agenda. The only thing to report there is the things that we came up with recommendations in our strategic plan that are being incorporated into the SILC advocacy goals that we are working on now for the next SPIL. So that's really about the only report out there for strategic planning.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Steve. Next, we will have our financial report presented by Mindy Kulasa.

>> MINDY KULASA: Yes, if you would bring up the statement of financial condition, please. Where I always start with our snapshots. Everyone received the financial reports in advance of the meeting. But we are maintaining sufficient cash in our accounts to cover all of our expenditures. So, cash flow remains positive and not an issue.

Next, if you would bring up our budget versus actual, please?

And we are going to hone in on year to date. And in the far right‑hand columns. And I am happy to report that we are under budget. We did not have as many SILC members as we had budgeted for attending the annual Congress that Steve mentioned earlier. So, from an expenditure standpoint we are writing line and under budget.

And then I will just kind of briefly, without pulling them up, the other two financial reports. You received the details from the check register. And those can be traced to the financial statement which I receive each and every month.

So, we don't share that for confidentiality reasons with the whole Council. It's available to the Council upon request. By Steve or I or Tracy. But I do review the bank statements on a quarterly basis at least.

So, all is looking well with our financial picture. And I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have about that. Hearing none, Jamia, the next item after that on the agenda is another standing agenda item. Our SILC financial policies workgroup update. This was a very active committee about a year ago at this time. And we completely revamped our financial policies. And there is nothing new to report under this particular item today.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Mindy. Thank you for reporting on our finances. And if you look down on the next agenda item that's called season Bylaws committee and that is also a standing agenda item.

Okay, at this time we have a break in our agenda. But given that we are kind of early, I wonder should we do our ex officio reports now and take our break after? Would you all like to do that?

>> Uh‑huh.

>> Sure.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Okay so our first ex officio report will be from bill Addison of Michigan rehab services. And just a reminder if all reports can be no more than five minutes a piece. Thank you.

>> BILL ADDISON: Yes, thank you. Mine will be under five minutes here. What I wanted to address right now and Steve, you sent me some questions on some funding issues here. I'd like to use my time to respond to those because I have answers to all of your questions that you asked in the memo here. I'll go over the question and give MRS' response to it. Basically, the first question was: Concerning section four of the statewide plan. The question was are there going to be any modifications to the plan? Right now, what we are looking at is we will probably move forward with the writing that we have in the plan right now with some minor changes and those minor changes are such things as the CFR numbers which are the codes of Federal regulations. Those numbers have changed. So, we are going to update the plan to include the new references to the new Federal regulations. Another change that we are going to make and it's very minor is we use the term NetCIL in the state plan. We will eliminate that and use just a generic IT program for the CILs. And that is consistent with what CILs have in their contract.

The last part of that is the monitoring. And our monitoring section will stay the same. And the rationale for that is we have created a monitoring in the state plan and MRS policy mirrors our statements in the state plan.

I think another question you had, Steve, was about the amount of Part B funding already expended. And that's 100%. We already spent 100% of Part B. And I think your last question here, Steve, and let me know if I miss anything is the percentage makeup of the statewide Independent Living Council's funding. I have got to put a lot of disclaimers into this because what happens is like any other program, our accounting will pull monies out of different Federal pots. Just like we do with CILs. So, the numbers that are ‑‑ I'm going to give you right now are the numbers right now at this time. Those percentages most likely will change because, again, when one pot gets low, we take money from another Federal pot or a state pot. So right now, here is approximately the funding for the statewide Independent Living CIL. 25% approximately is GFGP that is the state funding. Approximately 29% is the Part B funding. And approximately 46% is all other Federal fundings. And right now, we can't break that out because it's probably a combination of two or more different Federal fundings. So, I ask Steve, did I miss anything on your questions here, Steve?

>> STEVE LOCKE: No, Bill, I'm all set. Thank you.

>> BILL ADDISON: Okay, all right, and the last thing is that your e‑mail also referred to making some recommendations to MRS about modifications of the plan. And that's fine. If you can submit those to me, we will take a look at them and give you some responses.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Bill. Does anyone have any questions for Bill regarding his report?

>> BILL ADDISON: All right, thank you.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: No problem. Okay, our next report will be from Lisa Kisiel from the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons. I don't think she is on today.

>> She was supposed to be here.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: I don't see her and will go to the next report and circle back if she joins, Annie Urasky from the Michigan department of civil rights.

>> ANNIE URASKY: Hello everybody this is Annie Urasky good afternoon or morning I hope everyone is doing excellent. First and foremost, I want to acknowledge today is international women's day, so we want to honor that as well. That is a pretty big moment. So, a few updates from our department, and our team, we are shifting our focus on training and doing a lot of community events and we have quite a few coming up, and we have some this month and all the way into June. Currently this month is also national reading month. That is one of my favorite things to do as a director to go out to different deaf hard of hearing programs all over the state and read to students in the classroom. We just did our first session this week and there are a few more coming up in the following weeks. So, some will be scheduled in April as well because of spring break. You know how that goes. A lot of schools are off during that time, but I always love doing that, reading books to kids is amazing. I also wanted to expand on the opportunity for training sessions we are calling them know your rights. And people within the deaf and deaf blind community and hard of hearing we are trying to expand that information as far as advocacy and empowering the people who are part of our community. For instance, it could be say you come into an issue with a doctor's office or a healthcare facility or hospital system and say they are not providing the appropriate accommodation that is required for you for hosting training sessions to inform the community what your rights are and review the disability civil rights laws, things like that. So, if you, again, as I mentioned before, and in your region if you are aware of someone who might be interested in having one of these trainings, we would be more than happy to schedule a session. I also wanted to bring up we are taking a look at some things that are going on related to our advisory Council.

Our next meeting will be April 11. And that will be in Lansing. We just announced our appointment for the new chair of the Council. So, we are super excited about that. His name is Gerid Adams, and he is from the Grand Rapids area, so we are looking forward to working with him as the new chair. And then, what else do I have to say here? Also wanted to mention a few things here regarding community events that we will be participating in and includes deaf education. Family matters. We are having a conference, which is actually happening tomorrow, that will be at LCC west and at the community college. A lot of families of deaf and deaf blind and hard of hearing families are going to come out to see what they can do to advocate for their children. And they will be at the event as well. We also are going to have a booth at the upcoming health fair that is hosted by the communication access center which is housed in Flint, Michigan. Flint, that is happening March 20th from 10‑3. We will be there. It's a great opportunity for medical providers, nursing students, community members, to connect and engage and talk about health-related issues that impact the community that we serve.

And the last thing I wanted to bring up from our department is we are continuing our sessions related to discrimination and fair housing. So, we have an upcoming hearing that is happening next week on Saturday in Flint. At the Mont community college that will be happening from 4‑7:00 p.m. I'm more than happy to send information. Tracy, I will send you that flier so if you know of anyone that is in your community who might be experiencing discrimination related to race, color, religion, family status, national or natural origin we are happy to come out and have you testify. And attend that hearing so that way we can get that information on the record. We have another hearing that is happening in Grand Rapids. And that is April 28th and that is a Sunday. That is also from 4‑7:00 p.m. Awesome, all right that is it for me on my end, at this point thank you everyone, if you have any questions let me know.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Annie, are there any questions for Annie regarding her report?

>> MINDY KULASA: Jamia, this is Mindy Kulasa, I apologize. I would like to jump back to Bill Adson's report. I just had a point of clarification I would like to ask Bill if I may.

>> BILL ADDISON: Yes, go ahead.

>> That works.

>> MINDY KULASA: What timeframe were you quoting? Were you looking at SILC's fiscal year beginning October 1, were you talking calendar year?

>> BILL ADDISON: From October 1st.

>> MINDY KULASA: October 1.

>> BILL ADDISON: Yes.

>> MINDY KULASA: Thank you.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Okay, thank you. We will go to our next report given by Shawan Dortch from the Michigan Department of Education.

>> SHAWAN DORTCH: Thank you, Jamia. Well, some of our offices have transitioned to the Miley and other units joined the office of special education and are committed to continue to operate with the ISD to monitor and support students with disabilities by providing state resources and technical assistance. We are currently in the midst of our monitoring for discipline related concerns across the state. Pretty heavy right now with monitoring and supporting our districts.

Our state performance plans data was submitted to OCEP on February 2024. And we look forward to the opportunity to review the state performance plan for two weeks beginning in the first week of May. Usually the first, second week of May. Districts and public-school academies at intermediate school districts can preview their data during that time. But publicly it will be available as of June the 1st, 2024.

And just released in February by the Michigan Department of Education was the five-year graduation rate for all students. And it was exciting to see that the graduation rates are rising higher than the pre-pandemic rate. So, there is a lot of work that's going on in those districts. If you would like to see more information about Michigan Department of Education and their press releases, you can contact HTTPS//www.Michigan.gov/mde/contact‑us. And you will get those same publications of important information that is delivered to the state and to various departments. So, again, we are excited about the changes that are happening. But there are a lot of changes. So that's it for my report for the office of special Ed.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Shawan. Are there any questions for Shawan? Okay, no problem, thank you. So, Yasmina could not join us today from the Michigan development disability Council. So, we are going to have our IL network update by Yvonne Fleener.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: Roger, I got it, thank you. Yeah, so I have a couple things. The Council legislative day is May 8 this year. If anyone from the SILC wants to tag on to the legislative day let me know. I will give you more details about that.

>> AARON ANDRES: I'm going with my local.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: Good, cool, good. Yeah. It looks like we plan on having a record number of attendance including customers/consumers. So that's great news and as part of the SPIL language about increasing is one of the indicator Steve so we will be able to say yes.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Awesome.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: Another thing that is happening and exciting and unfortunately is also on May 8, the same day as legislative day, at disability advocates Kent they are doing an absolutely accessible Kent conference that day. And they are having some really exciting people nationally known people on accessibility coming in. One of them is the director of accessibility at the John F. Kennedy center of performing arts in DC and they have done some really exemplary work on accessibility. Not only physical but other types. Sensory and hidden disability or not apparent disability, accessibility, so that will be great to hear from them. Then they have architects coming from New York who really focus on the nonapparent accessibility. I think we all kind of have a good understanding of physical accessibility needs and so it's great to see that now we are starting to talk about all those other kinds of accessibility that I don't think we focused on as much. And then there is a gentleman named Jerry post who is going to be talking about urban planning. And he's done all kinds of work all over the world on accessibility.

So, if you go to the disability advocates Kent website or I can send the link to Tracy you can register for that. Or on the same day if you would like to come to legislative day with us, you know, connect with your local CIL, or let me know and we can certainly give you more details on that.

I think that's it for now.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Yvonne. Are there any questions for Yvonne? Okay, so now the time is 12:41. And we are going to take our break now for ten minutes. And we will return at 12:51. Thanks everyone.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: Great meeting today.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Yeah.

[ Recess for ten minutes]

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Hello everyone. The time is 12:51 and will resume our meeting for today. So, our next agenda item is the SPIL monitoring. And we are going to begin the spill monitoring with a report by Theresa Metzmaker on advocacy and leadership.

>> THERESA METZMAKER: Hi everyone. So, in mid-February Jon sent me an update about YLF and said the CILs in D and M have approved to provide dollars to pick up a YLF. The YLF/youth summit will happen on June 17th and 18th. They are planning on holding it at a hotel. With staff being present to support the kids to do overnight. And that is the update I have. They are reconvening the committee that they had last time. They are inviting speakers that they had booked last time. And so, they are moving forward. That is the update. I didn't know if Yvonne had any other information but that is what I had from Jon.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Theresa. That is exciting news. We have been waiting a long time for the youth summit so thank you for sharing that. Are there any questions for Theresa?

>> YVONNE FLEENER: We were muted Jamia, so I was just going to add one little piece. And that is that we work with Dean transportation because we were concerned about transportation. And they are going to create hubs across the state and provide transportation for people who want to attend. So that was good news for us so more people will be much more inclusive that way. But that was it.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Yvonne. Any other questions for Theresa? Hearing none Mark is not here today to give a report on diversity and inclusion. So, we will have our next SPIL monitoring item, which is the personal care attendants and presented by Jan Lampman.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Thank you Jamia and good afternoon this is Jan Lampman I wanted to recap a little bit the SILC and also our centers for Independent Living's involvement in sort of a statewide movement related to direct care workers. Both Teri Langley and Steve Locke participate in a direct care wage coalition that has been actually working for a number of years. And that coalition has sort of created some legislative priorities and so there is a lot of advocacy and both among the statewide organizations, right, organizational advocacy but also, we are really trying to mobilize grass roots advocacy around sort of two legislative priorities. One of which being a wage increase, right? It's budget season for the legislature. And so now is the time for folks to be meeting with their legislatures talking about their experiences either being a direct support professional, needing to utilize direct support professionals or, you know, caring about someone who utilizes direct support professionals. And the fact that you know, at this point in time in the State of Michigan and really across the country we don't pay that workforce nearly enough, right? And we are not competitive in the labor market whatsoever. And people that need support to be able to live their lives are feeling it. So right now the things that we are asking people with lived experience and also the supportive organizations to talk to the legislature about is the sort of target of a $4 an hour on average wage increase, which based on some surveys that we have done across Michigan with organizations that provide direct care, that would be bringing wages up to about $20 per hour. And then in addition to that asking for that, you know, continued support of the legislature to increase those wages, we are really asking the legislature to take a look at some possible administrative efficiencies that could be made, that could save money, right? And could be funneled back into direct support worker wages. And so that work is going on. There are ‑‑ so far there are two centers for independent living that are assisting with bringing together some people with lived experience, people who use direct support professionals and also their families to meet with legislatures. And so, I'm hoping that, you know, I'm reaching out, little by little to make sure we are getting that participation from the centers. Because, you know, really our centers for Independent Living are in a great position to mobilize and bring together people who receive these kinds of supports to get in front of legislatures so that is one of the sort of activities that are going on.

And in addition, the impart alliance is another organizational effort, organized effort to really focus on the ‑‑ that direct support professional workforce as a professional workforce. As a job that is meaningful and is a profession and a career, right? And so, again, there are representatives from the CIL network and also Steve Locke as the SILC director, the SILC representative that are a part of this organizational effort called the impart alliance. They are sort of housed with Michigan State University. And, in fact, the impart alliance just received a 25 million grant to sort of create this, what is the word I want to look for? Why don't I use the actual word that they are saying, right? So, they want to create a direct care work career center that aims to increase pathways into the field and transform the public view to one that recognizes this workforce as a respected profession. And so that's the impart alliance is sort of focus. And, again, there are people from centers for independent living and also the SILC that are, you know, they are at that table and are trying to help shape what that looks like. So those are sort of the main I think updates that I have. I can't encourage folks enough who care about this topic to get out there and talk to your legislatures. They need to hear from people whose lives this is impacted. That I think is it for my report. If anyone has any questions, I'm happy to try to respond.

>> Jan, I have a couple questions what is the current wage and I know it fluctuates depending on but what is the average current wage right now? How much of an increase is $20 an hour?

>> JAN LAMPMAN: $4 increase right now the Michigan assisted living association and the what used to be MARO, the you know, the, I can't think of their name, I'm so sorry. I'm going to be lighting is going to strike me for not getting it right, but they do an annual wage with providers across the state and the average wage hovers around $16 an hour.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: When you said the CILs you said right now there are two working on was that a request that you made to all the CILs? Or.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: It's a request I will be making to the other CILs. But those two CILs happen to have what happened is there were people with disabilities who have been wanting to get in front of their legislatures who reached out to the CILs and said can you help us bring people together? And so that is how that happened. I went hey wow this is fantastic, and you will get a request.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: Making sure we did not miss something that was missed.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: That was grass roots Yvonne. People support saying to the CIL can you help us get this out.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: That is awesome. And 25 million is hard not to choke, that is a lot of money and a lot of wages by the way.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: I know. I hear you.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: So, I will just leave it at that but and I love Claire. I think Claire is amazing who is running the impart alliance and I have no doubt she will do fantastic things with that money but wow that is a lot of money.

>> AARON ANDRES: I have one question is that premium pay or without premium pay?

>> JAN LAMPMAN: I'm going to say this on a recorded line that is going into a public record for once and for all. There is no premium pay any more. Both of the increases that happened kind of the one that happened as a result of COVID and then the one that happened last year are baked into the budget basically. They are baked into the rates. So, they are no longer premium pay and are part of the pay.

>> AARON ANDRES: Thank you.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: You're welcome. I know I was very intense about that but it's like I've been saying this for like I don't know for two years or something.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: Does that mean that there is legislation that says direct care like basically a minimum wage for direct care workers is legislated?

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Here is what is legislated. What is in the legislation, what was built in is that direct care ‑‑ before last year's budget direct care workers were legally mandated to make, right, what was it? What was the wage? The rate increase? Was it 2.35 an hour?

>> YVONNE FLEENER: Yes.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: So, everybody as of the time of that budget, every direct support professional needed to be making at least $2.35 an hour more than what the wage was for the agency where they worked or what their wage was on March of 2020.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: Okay.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: So, if there is a provider agency that is say paying their staff minimum wage plus the $13 or the $3.25 or 35, 2.35 plus 85 cents from last year, they may or may not be in compliance. So, there is boilerplate that is mandating what the providers have to pay to be sure workers got the two wage increases does that make sense?

>> YVONNE FLEENER: Yes. Okay.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: If you hear of providers paying minimum wage you know for a fact, they are not following that rule.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: I wonder if, yeah, as they hire new people, they probably will hire them at a lower rate then apply the three something.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: So, it's going to have to be the minimum wage but three something is the floor because if it's lower than that then they have not followed the rule, yeah.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: Most of those places already were paying more because that's the only way they could get people and they had to add that on top. So, when they hire new, they will probably drop down to the minimum wage. But hopefully not. Hopefully, that won't happen.

>> AARON ANDRES: Know this is on a recorded line as well.

Who do we contact if they are not maintaining that wage?

>> JAN LAMPMAN: If it looks like there is someone who is not following that, I would reach out to customer service at MDHHS.

>> AARON ANDRES: Okay.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Jan, thanks so much for giving us all the information regarding the direct care workers.

Okay we are going to move right along on the agenda today for the emergency response team. And that will be presented by Frank Animikwam.

>> FRANK ANIMIKWAM: Hi, good afternoon, everyone. It's great to see everybody. The updates that I have and also reviewing meeting minutes and point your attention to the Executive Director's report as well as there are some updates for the emergency preparedness meetings.

So, we are continuing to meet as a group monthly. And with our partnering CILs and I know Mark is not here to give an update on the CILs. When we do have the meetings there are updates on numbers of contacts as well as continuing to review appropriate emergency preparedness kits for those who are in need. And then for MPHI that partnership the Michigan public health institute, their grant was extended through May if you see Steve's report and continuing studying the aging population's needs. And in addition, coming out of this work is working on an emergency preparedness pamphlet. And there are several CIL members of this committee as well as SILC Council members of this committee that shared some sources for citing for the pamphlet. The last thing I will just share is finally connected with Steve and the Executive Director for Michigan academy of family physicians for some potential collaborations. And so that is what I have. And I don't know if Steve had anything further, he would like to share for emergency preparedness, if I missed anything. But thank you for your time, everyone.

>> JAMIA DAVIS:

>> STEVE: Thank you, Frank, you covered everything. Great job.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Frank. Okay, so Lisa is out. She is not available today for our meeting. So, we are going to move to our SILC led outreach and awareness campaign. And, Steve, if you would like to give an update on that. And I can kind of chime in as well.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Sure. We are kicking off the presentation that the Council received in January from Idea 39. We continue meeting on a biweekly basis. We are still putting out a monthly newsletter. Social media blasts. Mini campaign coming up, with Disability Network Mid‑Michigan and also looking at a summer ADA pride arts event in Madison heights, the arts Council reached out to SILC to see if we would like to engage again for a second year. So, there is some activity going on around that.

Which is very excited, and Jamia I will turn it over to you.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Okay, thank you, Steve. And we have in regard to our social media metrics our social media metrics have been doing really well. We really use social media to get the public's attention regarding our public survey for the SPIL. And that has been going very well. We also have some upcoming Facebook lives that are upcoming throughout the year. And every ‑‑ then we tend to do our social media posts in regard to what is current and, you know, what month is relevant at the time. So, everything is going really well. And we are just very appreciative of Idea 39 and their collaboration with us as a Council.

And, yes, exciting things going on. So, we are excited.

And that is all that I could ‑‑ that is all that I have for the outreach portion. So, we are going to move to our new business on the agenda now which is the award of the accounting contract with Juniper accounting services, which is a five‑year contract with the five-year option. And if Tracy has something to display on screen for us. That will be great.

>> MINDY KULASA: The summary that went out with the packet, this is Mindy Kulasa, and I'll be going over this today.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you.

>> MINDY KULASA: With everyone. Steve did put together a request for a proposal. And I want to thank our RSP review team of Jamia Davis and Stephanie Deible and Aaron Andres and we did have two responses to our request for proposal. Our current accounting firm who just simply underwent a name and a business structure change, Juniper accounting, and then the entity that we weren't terribly familiar with but got to know a bit, Bey accounting services. And, as you can see from the Rankings, they were comparable.

>> LISA KISIEL: Hang on a minute.

>> MINDY KULASA: They were comparable. However, we have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with Juniper accounting services. They have just done an outstanding job for us. And, you know, it's part of our due diligence to periodically look at our different vendors and service providers. So, this was not because we were unhappy with Juniper's work in any way, shape, or form. And they maintain for us all of our backroom accounting functions. And it's very important because with such a small staff of Steve and Tracy, we really need to keep an eye on segregation of duties. And Juniper really helps us in that regard. And we also need to keep an eye as a Council on the internal controls surrounding our financial structure. Both of these are designed obviously to detect and prevent any fraud that could be occurring. As happened way back when.

So, we are recommending to the Council approve a five‑year contract with Juniper accounting services that cost per month is a bargain at $1275. And they have built a 3% increase each year into their requests for proposal response. To cover cost of living adjustments each year.

So, this is now presented to the Council to vote on.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Mindy. Thank you for presenting the accounting contract. May we have a motion to approve the accounting contract with Juniper accounting services for five years?

>> AARON ANDRES: Motion to have the contract as presented Andres.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Aaron. May we have a second motion on the floor to approve?

>> STEPHANIE DEIBLE: I will second the motion.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Stephanie. And Tracy, may we have a roll call vote please?

>> AARON ANDRES: Yes.

>> FRANK ANIMIKWAM: Yes.

>> ALLEN BEAUCHAMP: Yes.

>> ERICA COULSTON: Yes.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Yes.

>> STEPHANIE DEIBLE: Yes.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: Yes.

>> MINDY KULASA: Yes.

>> JAN LAMPMAN: Yes.

>> THERESA METZMAKER: Yes.

>> TRACY BROWN: Motion carried.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you. Thank you everyone. And I see that Lisa Kisiel from the Bureau of services to blind persons has joined us today. Hi Lisa?

>> LISA KISIEL: Good afternoon, everybody, I'm sorry I was running super late from a meeting so I will be there shortly.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Okay would you like to give your ex officio report?

>> LISA KISIEL: Sure.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: We are at the bottom of the agenda.

>> LISA KISIEL: That is fine. I'm happy to do that. I did share that with Tracy. So, if you want to review that on the screen that's fine. Otherwise, you have it for your review. So, I did add a few metrics on the report that during the quarter of 10‑1‑23 through 12‑31‑23, it's hard to believe it's 24. We are almost a quarter way through that. That we served and anyone stage of service from open to closer and applicants, et cetera 1173 cases were touched. 449 of those cases were youth and students. So those are individuals who qualified as youth and students. And so that includes out-of-school youth as well. So just wanted to note that.

And when we speak about our post exit percentages and those would be the cases that have maintained employment for six- and 12-months post-employment, we are at about 41%. So definitely you know, some work to do on that. And some of that I do want to be fair that as we migrated to our new case management system, we very well may not always be getting exactly the correct data that we are hoping for at this time. We are working on that with the case management system. So please bear with us.

The information I provided in the report was that I've also shared with the labor and economic opportunity operations plan. So, I figured it made sense to share information.

We did complete the combined state plan. And which is the 24 to 27 combined state plan for Michigan. And we supported that by implementing that into the WIOA portal. On March 1st we were able to complete that project with a March 4th deadline so we are a little ahead of schedule so we will take any day we can, right?

We also submitted our quarterly 911 report. Which is our federal report that we do every quarter. We are a couple days late with managing the informed migration because we were able to do that successfully as well with no errors.

I also included in the report that you have, I shared with you some just some testimonials and asked my time you know what kinds of CIL experiences have you all had? Because one of the things that I'm always asking is what kind of relationships do we have with our CILs from BSBP and how are we serving individuals who are blind? And I want to kind of jump up to our Upper Peninsula team and VR professionals with BSBP as well as the sail up north and talk about the great relationship that we have with them where they are reaching out to our vision rehab therapists and she is giving them some consultations and some advice about how to serve individuals who are not eligible for BSBP and then also you know, managing referrals of individuals who could be eligible or are eligible for BSBP and the kinds of services that they need. And she's looking forward to more experiences.

So, the partnering experience up there is great. And we are really excited about that.

I also noted that the Disability Network lakeshore disability advocates of Kent County, disability, I'm sorry, Disability Network northern is working with us on inner agency cash transfer agreements as well as some programs with Pre‑ETS focused in terms of helping us understand the narrowing gaps for service delivery from the Bureau and from the schools the districts.

And, of course, we could be remiss if we did not mention Disability Network Southwest Michigan and the work, we have done for them really institutionalized work we have done with them for years. Related to benefits planning and financial literacy skills, you know, for our customers. Because understanding your benefits definitely contributes to financial literacy. So just wanted to share those things. And also shared in the report the six goals our state plan goals, which I will keep those in the goal, and I want to mention that the testimonials that I mentioned from the CILs definitely do speak specific to transition to goals two and three that speak specifically about our preemployment transition services.

So just want to share that with you. And please let me know.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Lisa, for your report. Does anyone have any questions for Lisa?

Okay, our next.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: Should we let Lisa know we are at the end of the agenda, so she doesn't waste a trip coming here?

>> LISA KISIEL: I want my lunch. No, I'm just kidding. No, I'm fine.

>> YVONNE FLEENER: If you are close.

>> LISA KISIEL: I heard you say you are about done so apologize for being late.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you.

>> LISA KISIEL: Yep.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Our next agenda item is information sharing or announcements that anyone may have. Anything that is going on in the disability community that we should be aware of? So, the floor is open at this time for any information sharing. Hearing none we are going to go into public comment. Is there ‑‑ oh, I'm sorry, yes Terri.

>> I raised my hand for public comment, so you are spot on.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Public comment, the floor is open.

>> Well I want to say hello to everybody. And thank you for letting me make some public comments today. I do want to first off start by thanking Steve Locke for all of you because of his collaborative nature and the opportunity that he provided for the CILs to collaborate on the emergency preparedness grant funding as he said we had 7 centers participate. And the staff that was involved very much enjoyed the collaborating between centers. So, it was a really positive experience. And I'm hoping as Steve, and I talked that this will be the first of many collaborations that we can work on together.

And then in the same vein of thanking people I wanted to thank Sigrid and Bill and their staff at MRS for holding the vendor conference regarding the rate changes. I attended the one in Grand Rapids. Amanda with Disability Network lakeshore was there as well. And it was an opportunity to not only meet face‑to‑face with everyone but also share common stories we all have, excuse me, in the disability space. And it was the first time that for me I felt that the agency was making an effort to communicate and be transparent. And so, I definitely wanted to make sure that Bill heard it and, again, because I did tell him in person but for all of you on the call as well, I feel pretty hopeful about, you know, moving forward in this space. And that was ‑‑ that really was an example of how when we are face‑to‑face we have better discussions instead of e‑mail communications. And sometimes even Zoom calls. So, I did want to make sure everyone understood that was a really good event put together by MRS.

And then I have some really good news on behalf of DNM. We were invited to participate in the Michigan Chamber of Commerce's HR and talent summit that was scheduled for Wednesday. And we were also invited to host a breakout session. So, it was pretty big for us. We were able to have one of disability advocates Kent County board member present as well as Amy‑Mays who most of you are probably familiar with her from eastern Michigan present the second half of the breakout session. And it was I know I'm biased, but it was a very good presentation. But also, I could see everyone engaging. We had about 15 people in the room. Which was phenomenal because we were competing with the AI session that was going on. So, people were torn between which ones to attend. And the discussion that was the result of their presentations was phenomenal. And we had someone in the room who is an HR professional, who actually had received services from a center. Unfortunately, I did not get the name of the center that she had received services from. But no better testament than someone who has experienced the services and resources provided by the centers.

So that to me was another first step in increasing the awareness of the value of the centers and all of the work that everyone does in the Independent Living space. So, I was pretty encouraged. And it was their first event which hopefully will be an annual event. But they had great feedback for us. And it just over all was a great opportunity for the centers.

And then I did want to add Yvonne's information about the legislative day. Capital day. If you are planning to attend, which you know obviously we encourage you, please contact your local center because they are scheduling visits with their legislatures and also either, you know, contact your center or me so that I can make sure you get a lunch. Because I order those lunches so wanting to make sure no one goes away hungry. The format is still being created. So that information I don't have that right now for you. But if anybody has any questions, please feel free to reach out to me. I can certainly share that information on going with Steve so that he can communicate that with you as well.

And then, you know, the Jan mentioned the direct care worker wage coalition that we are definitely happy to be a part of. They are really just making some great headway with the legislature. The DHHS grant is a great example of how serious the state is taking this. And they are making efforts to not only recognize that there is a shortage but also help train folks to become, you know, better direct care workers, and increase that number of direct care workers and proud to be a part of that as well.

And then, lastly, just letting everyone know that the budget conversations are ongoing. The centers have requested $3 million more in funding. I have no reason to believe that those conversations are not going well. Being in the room and having those discussions with legislatures everyone recognizes the value that the centers bring to the State of Michigan. It is just more or less trying to educate them on why this needs to be ongoing. And what the return on investment they receive for that funding.

And then, also, pastor up the personal assistants funding for reimbursement program the centers administer, that also is a request on behalf of the centers. And those discussions are equally going as well. And there's no reason to believe that that program won't continue with the funding that is in jeopardy this year for next year. So, we are funded through the end of September, which is the current fiscal year, through an MRS funding source. And then after that we are on our own, which those conversations are going very well with legislatures to ensure that it does return for next fiscal year and beyond. And that's what I have.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Teri, for your public comment. Is there anyone else that would like to give public comment at this time?

>> BILL ADDISON: I would like to respond to Teri here if I can have a couple minutes here. First of all, Teri, I really appreciate the compliments. And this is Sigrid Adam's objective is to be a good partner with our vendors. What you see in the last three sessions was with our attempt to do that. I think it went really well. But what really came out of it with long lasting benefits is when we broke into small sections and we talked about how we could improve our relationship with vendors, we got a variety of good responses. So, what we're going to do is continue having a large-scale meeting like this. And Sigrid wants to incorporate some of the feedback we have already got from this meeting. So, Teri, you made some recommendations in your group. You are probably going to see it executed in the next upcoming seminars we provide. So again, thank you.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Bill. Is there anyone else that would like to give public comment? Hearing none, may we have a motion to adjourn today's meeting?

>> YVONNE FLEENER: So moved.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you. Thank you, Yvonne, and may we have a second motion?

>> AARON ANDRES: Support, Andres.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: Thank you, Aaron. And all in favor say aye.

>> Aye.

>> JAMIA DAVIS: All right, thank you so much everybody for joining today's meeting. So much information has gone forth. And until we meet again thank you to the Disability Network southwest for hosting us today. And it's great seeing everyone. And until we meet again. Thanks everyone.

>> STEVE LOCKE: Have a great weekend everyone.

>> Thank you, good‑bye.

[ Meeting concludes]